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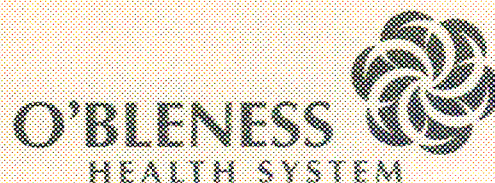
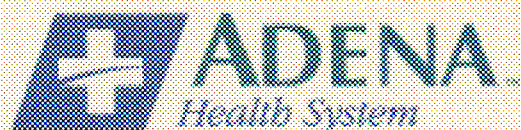


Additional Letter of Support  
from  
**Governor Ted Strickland**

Rural Health Care Pilot Project  
WC Docket No. 02-60

**Adena Health System** and **O'Bleness Health System**  
Chillicothe, Ohio Athens, Ohio

*Please add to binders sent earlier dated 3 May 2007*



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**TED STRICKLAND**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OHIO  
May 7, 2007

Mr. Jeremy Marcus  
Chief, Telecommunications Access Policy Division  
Wireline Competition Bureau  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Rural Health Care Pilot Project, WC Docket 02-60**

Dear Mr. Marcus:

I am pleased to offer my support and endorsement of the Southern Ohio Health Care Network proposed by the Adena and O'Bleness Health Systems for funding under the Rural Health Care Pilot Project. Covering a geographic area the size of New Jersey, the Southern Ohio Health Care Network will bring inclusive and sustainable broadband services to the dozens of rural health care facilities in the service area. These include thirty-eight federally designated clinics and hospitals serving seventeen Health Professional Shortage Areas.

The Southern Ohio Health Care Network fits perfectly with two top priorities for my administration:

- The Broadband Ohio Initiative and
- The Turnaround Ohio Program.

I took office just five months ago and, as set forth during the campaign, we are committed to expanding broadband coverage to ensure that all Ohioans can benefit from the health care services, job opportunities and educational resources that depend on access to high speed networks. In our southern rural communities, this imperative carries extra weight due to the persistent poverty suffered in these counties. Overcoming physical isolation with broadband networks offers the chance to transform the rural economies.

The Adena and O'Bleness Health Systems built a collaborative team to create this proposal. In the process they:

- United the two largest non-profit health systems in the region.
- Garnered the support of nationally prominent urban health care providers.
- Coordinated on the State level with:
  - o The Ohio Supercomputer Center (OSC)
  - o The Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO)
  - o The State Office of Information Technology (OIT)
  - o The Governor's Office

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May 7, 2007  
Mr. Jeremy Marcus

The Southern Ohio Health Care Network is part of a cohesive health information technology planning effort coordinated by the HPIO. Local and regional projects that tie into the overall State strategy give us the best of both worlds:

- Leadership from within the service region.
- Interoperability with the statewide vision.

This Administration and our state agencies look forward to working with the Adena-O'Bleness project team should the Commission elect to fund this worthwhile project.

The Southern Ohio Health Care Network offers a compelling model that could help inform policy and strategy for expanding broadband services in rural areas across the country. Should there be any questions regarding our support or this letter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Strickland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Ted Strickland  
Governor, State of Ohio